

"I don't think you people like each other very much. In classes, people are unfriendly until I say, 'I'm sorry, but I'm German.' "

with American men to the movies or a concert, but she considered it friendly company rather than a date.

Yee-Wah Chan, a pharmacy junior from Hong Kong, said she dates a Chinese but has never dated an American. "It is very hard to communicate and find something in common with Americans," she said.

As an example of the foreign students' social dilemma, Boykin recalls how one handsome Zambian once asked her, "But, Mrs. Boykin, what do you do after you've been to the movies, if you don't like beer?"

Hermes said he feels there is some suspicion on the part of American girls toward foreign men.

Farhad Delirie, an undergraduate from Iran, said American girls often think foreign men are Cassanovas or Don Juans. "They are not sure of what we are going to do," he said.

"To my point of view, girls here are very free," Delirie said. "Back home I could restrict my girlfriend from dating other men. Here the girls do what they want.

"American girls are attracted to foreign men," Delirie continued. "And usually if a girl gives us a chance, she likes us a lot; the way we think, our type of life. This keeps us from becoming Americanized."

As for Nebraskans as a whole, Korean Nak Yung Kim, a 32-year old graduate student in mathematics, said he thought Nebraskans were conservative and that this was good. He added that if he could vote in this election he would vote for Nixon.

On the other hand, one Trinidad student said he thinks UNL is not progressive.

"They (the University regents and administrators) try to keep out intellectual and academic thought—anything that's different from what Nebraska thought 50 years ago," he said.

Most foreign students will say Nebraskans are very friendly, especially when compared to people in the nation's bigger cities.

"The people here are much friendlier on a first impression," said Altaf Malik, a junior from Pakistan. "In a city like Washington, D.C., there's an air of I-don't-care-ness. Especially from people like sales clerks."

But when you ask a foreign student what he thinks of UNL students, you receive an entirely different answer.

One European girl said, "I don't think you people like each other very much. In classes, people are very unfriendly until I say, 'I'm sorry, but I'm German.' "

What seems humorous to an American

is sometimes insulting to a foreigner. Take Altaf Malik's unpleasant encounter with one American's insensitivity.

The two were doing some paper work over Christmas vacation, when they began to discuss Malik's Muslim religion. When told of the Muslim dietary restrictions, the American began to ask a series of "stupid" questions such as "do you eat frogs?"

One Philippino graduate student said, "Sometimes I'm afraid to talk because I may not be good in pronouncing words or using English grammar." She added that she feels some people look down on her because of the color of her skin.

Iran's Delirie observed: "The last cigarette in a pack is very important to an American. He can't give it to a friend who asks for one. But it's not the last cigarette he's going to smoke. Why can't he give the cigarette to his friend and buy the next pack a little sooner?"

"I have a lot of people that I know, but I don't have any friends," Lopez said. When asked what she thought was the reason for American's inability to form friendships, Lopez said, "It's just a system of life."

Boykin said the wives of foreign students have the biggest isolation problems because they usually do not know the language well and are burdened with children. Plus they are unfamiliar

To many foreign students, their introduction to the American culture is a confusing and frustrating experience, now revealing and then hiding its mysteries.

At 23, Siryani Tiball has had a better chance to see the United States from the inside out than many other foreign students will get in a lifetime.

In 1967, Siryani won an American Field Service scholarship to come to the U.S. and finish her last year of high school. She spent that year going to school and living with an American family, eating their food, going where they would travel, watching TV, watching the intimate, day-to-day workings of that family.

For the most part, she liked what she saw. Last year, Siryani returned to Lincoln to finish her degree in architecture. She also has an American family of her own, now, since she married Tom Tiball this spring.

But Siryani has not assimilated the traditional American life-style; some might even include her and Tom as

part of a "counter culture."

"My life style is so simple," she says. "I have nothing to worry about. You don't have to do, just be."

Part of her being includes meditation, music, reading, sewing, cooking, gardening and camping. She hates feeling tied down, hates being "owned" by people, hates being hung up on materialistic things.

She and Tom were married (against her parents' wishes) in a park at sunrise surrounded by friends. If they ever return to Ceylon, she wants to live "on the other side of the island" where there are fewer and poorer people. Eventually, she would like to work with low-income housing in underdeveloped areas.

But for now, "we are here to enjoy ourselves," she says. "We have just a short while to live, why not enjoy every moment of our life?"

That philosophy carries over to her view of Nebraska and UNL—"Any place is beautiful, wherever your head is."

